

Amigos de Honduras

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EDITOR'S CORNER

Loren Hintz (Olanchito, 1980-82)
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Happy Ground Hog's Day. Welcome to **volume 40** of **Amigos de Honduras** newsletter. The first issue was published in 1990 and 60 issues were published before I became editor in 2014. This is now the 94th issue according to former editor Alan Waugh's count.

Brenda suggested I rerun some old articles so I am including a 2002 article by **Roxanne du Bois Cull** from Alan's 2013 compilation of the **Best of Amigos de Honduras**. **Enjoy!** Please look at: <https://amigosdehondurasrpcv.weebly.com/> Our web site has the forms for applying for Amigos de Honduras Grants. **It contains links to all the old newsletters since 2014 and the collection of RPCV photos1970 to 2020.**

TREASURER REPORT

Anthony Ives (La Ceiba, 2003-5)
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Bremerton WA 98337 (Newest)

As of the close of business 12.31.21, the fund balance was \$5,274.41. Beginning balance October 31, 2021 \$8,193.75

Ending balance December 31, 2021	\$5,274.41
Total deposits and transfers from National Peace Corps Association:	
November	\$ 45.00
December	\$ 65.00
Total deposits and transfers from members and other sources:	
November	\$ 75.00
December	\$ 115.00
Total withdrawals and projects funded:	
November	\$ 12.00
December	\$ 3,231.32

* \$5,000 received from the Voyles Family Foundation designated for a project in East End, Cayos Cochinos in September. In partnership with Rotary International for a Cayos Cochinos project \$2,940 has been spent thus far. The rest will be spent in January 2022. **Amigos de Honduras (Friends of Honduras) is a 501-3c approved organization. All contributions are tax deductible.**

Editor Note: Our treasurer has also completed our required IRS 501-3c tax return. 12.31.20 balance was \$5800.95 and 12.31.21 was \$5274.41. Besides two large special designated donations (\$5000 for Cayos Cochinos and \$1514.32 La Ceiba School) \$835 was received as individual donations to the Grant Fund which is less than the previous year and \$1075 in dues. Thanks to recent donors: **David Dassey, Brant Miller, Blair Belton,**

Patricia Lively! With our new 501-3c status please consider donating to our Grant Fund **Also buy Scott Berg's book and contribute to the fund. (See his article in this newsletter.)**

SECRETARY REPORT Brenda Sims Crumpacker (Pespire, Choluteca, 1990-1) 509-758-4165

kbc.olympic@gmail.com Thanks to all of you who have paid your membership dues. My records show we currently have 189 members including 7 new members. Sadly we lost member Steve Moulds (1964-1966) who passed away last June. Just a reminder that your membership dues are \$15.00 per year or \$50.00 for 5 years. Your membership entitles you to a subscription of our Amigos de Honduras newsletter that is printed February, May, August and November. The back page of the newsletter, **Membership Info**, is how you can keep us updated. If you wish to change how you receive your newsletter please let me know.

Please Note the following about memberships: **1) IF** you pay directly to Tony Ives (our treasurer), as noted on the back of the newsletter, your membership gets processed quickly. He deposits the check and sends a copy of the check and filled out back page to Brenda (our secretary). She updates her mailing & pdf lists and

sends an email to the member so they can be assured that their money was received and updates made including new expiration date and donations noted. 2) IF you send money to NPCA in which you include payments for affiliates like Amigos de Honduras, **it takes a long time** for the information and money to be received by Tony and Brenda. Also, the member's contact info. (address, email), *how* they want to receive their newsletter and any donations made are not included. So, when I hear from NPCA I put you on my mailing list.

I hope that clears up the concerns we've received about money sent but no newsletter received OR wrong expiration date on the newsletter they do receive OR got a paper copy and want a pdf copy. If you have a question or concern please send me an email and I'll happily check into it for you. Also, if you do not wish to receive a copy of our charming and informative newsletter let me know that too. We always give members a grace period on their expiration date.

Fred has been very busy and successful finding Returned Honduran Volunteers. Thanks to him for all his work and to all who have responded to his inquires. This has kept me busy as well sending them information about memberships and copies of our newsletter. **We hope they join us and send us articles, memories and stories we can include in our newsletter.**

NATIONAL PEACE CORPS ASSOCIATION (Loren Hintz Olanchito, 1980-82) Please consider joining NPCA. You can join for free and access lots of news, articles and workshops via

www.peacecorpsconnect.org.

Terri Salus continues as our contact with NPCA in DC. Besides joining for free you can join at the \$50 level and receive the **Worldview Magazine**. The latest issue covers 60 years of Peace Corps. Check it out.

<https://www.peacecorpsconnect.org/cpages/worldview-magazine>

Here is a bit of PC news: **It's the news that thousands of us have been waiting to hear since March 2020:** The Peace Corps has begun issuing invitations for Volunteers to return to service overseas. Eight posts have met the agency's criteria when it comes to "robust health, safety, and security standards that must be met prior to Volunteers returning to countries of service." And invitations have begun going out for Volunteers, both new and returning, to serve in **Belize, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, and Zambia**. Volunteers have been invited to serve beginning in late January to March, "so long as conditions allow," [the agency notes](#). "As part of the Peace Corps' return to service, all Volunteers will be expected to contribute to COVID-19 response and recovery efforts. In addition, Volunteers will be required to accept the additional risks associated with volunteering during a pandemic and comply with agency standards for mitigating these risks, wherever possible."

Virtual Volunteering Positions Are Open, Too. The agency is seeking participants for a new and expanded round of the Virtual Service Pilot program as well. Partners from 28 countries and more than 230 returned Volunteers have participated since October 2020. The new round is open to any Returned Peace Corps Volunteer who is prepared to spend 5 to 15 hours per week working with a host country partner.

BIKE AID FOR GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

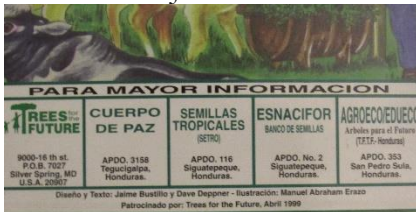
Bike Aid, the annual cross country bikeathon for global development, will relaunch in the summer of 2022, focusing on climate change. The multiroute bike ride from the West Coast to the East Coast of the USA is slated to take place June 14 to August 10, 2022. Cyclists will engage citizens and politicians in over 250 communities across the United States to discuss solutions to climate change. The ride will have nine routes covering all 50 states, culminating in Washington DC to implore the U.S. Congress to act decisively on climate change. Bike Aid is actively recruiting cross country riders and hosts in each of the communities. The routes will start in Seattle, Portland OR, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Austin, Tallahassee and Montreal, all meeting in Washington DC. Additional short routes are planned for Alaska and Hawaii. Each rider will raise money to support environmental projects in Asia, Africa and Latin America that mitigate climate change.

As background, Bike Aid was founded in 1986 by a group of Stanford University students. The cross country ride attracted 80 riders in its first year, and ran for 19 consecutive years, through 2004, with over 1100 participants. The ride raised over \$2 million for development projects sponsored by the Overseas Development Network in Africa, Asia and Latin America. **For more information, contact Bike Aid at:** Phone: 301-944-3370 Email: info@bikeaid.us Website: www.bikeaid.us

TFTF: ARBOLES PARA EL FUTURO Loren Hintz (Olanchito, 80-82)

I was preparing for a ZOOM presentation on **Birds, Bird Guides and Conservation in El Salvador**

and Honduras (ask me if you want me to present for your organization) and was looking at my collection of Honduran posters and maps. One caught my eye: a 1999 Honduran Poster on trees sponsored by Peace Corps with Jaime Bustillo and Dave Deppner as the authors. To learn more I posted it to the Peace Corps Honduras Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2209604190> Brian Atk reported that TFTF provided tree seeds to PCVs to use in their project sites for reforestation and agro forestry. Jim Barborak shared that Jaime Bustillo-Pon was his counterpart in Honduras Wildlife Department in the late 1970s and later a training center staffer. Jaime then wrote me:



Jaime Bustillo-Pon: “Hi there, Dave Deppner (RIP) was a former PCV in the Philippines, he and his wife created an NGO called Trees for the future (TFTF). He contacted me in Honduras and I became the TFTF director for many years. Dave and I came up with the idea of this poster (also in English and French version) to be used in our environmental education activities in Honduras and later in other countries in the region including Haiti. The whole idea goes around to create as many nurseries of multiple purpose and fast growing trees to rehabilitate degraded (deforested) land in as many places and countries as possible. In the beginning we were promoting *Leucaena* trees (***Leucaena leucocephala***) later we introduced many, many more species. Just in Honduras we were working with as many as 100 NGOs each with their own nurseries supported by TFTF. Dave was a visionary with his TFTF and agro forestry projects in many parts of the world.” **The World is in**

debt with PCV Dave Deppner, TFTF founder.



MY VIEW FROM THE STANDS USA vs. Honduras - A Soccer Game - Seattle – 3.2.02 Roxanne du Bois Cull, San Pedro Sula, Cortés & Tela, Atlántida 1973-75 ~ University Place, Washington Amigos de Honduras April 2002

The first time I ever saw soccer being played was during my first month in Honduras. It was a skirmish between a bunch of neighbor kids in Tegucigalpa. Many years and four soccer kids later I have finally come to understand the game, wondering now only if “Team Mom-15 years” might add anything to my résumé. It was my youngest, Ian, now a goalie on his high school team, who first heard about the upcoming exhibition game between the United States and Honduran National Teams at the Seattle Mariners’ new Safeco Field. **(We are talking seriously fancy stadium here).**

Ian loves soccer, and knew my normally thrifty self would part with my VISA card for the required nine seconds to purchase tickets to anything having to do with Honduras. Besides, his godfather, who had been in the Peace Corps with me, would be visiting that week and therefore coming to the game with us. This would be special. On the day the tickets were to go on sale at 10 am sharp, Ian had to be in school. He asked me to promise to get to Ticketmaster early, so the

game would not be sold out (this would not be unusual for us). I promised. Not far from my home is an unassuming drug store that houses one of Tacoma’s best kept secrets: a Ticketmaster counter.

When I wanted James Taylor concert tickets, I only had to wait an hour and a half to get decent seats and only two hours for Bette Midler (I own good binoculars). How bad could this be? I was running later than planned and at 9:20, mug of coffee in hand, I rushed into the drugstore to establish my place in line. There was no line. There was a tall man wandering near the Ticketmaster counter, which also serves as the cigarette, alarm clock, video and camera department. I began to wonder if I had come on the wrong day. Twenty minutes later, we were still the only ones there. Having finished reading the National Enquirer that was lying on the counter (did you know Lady Di was really an alien?), I figured I had nothing to lose by approaching the stranger who stood near me.

I asked if he was waiting for soccer tickets. He was, and we were both relieved to be correct about the date. He was a soccer coach and dad who was rewarding his daughter with tickets for making it onto one of our area’s premier teams. I did not know him, but we seemed to have a lot of friends in common - all soccer folks, of course. He was very pleasant. It was nice to have someone to talk to. And wait with. He picked up a small atlas. He asked me if I had ever heard of Honduras, and if I had a clue where it was - I didn’t like him anymore.

At ten o’clock, the counter lady appeared. I handed her my credit card and told her I wanted to purchase the 4 best available seats. How much could they be? My first car did not cost \$250 (but then it did not have 4 seats in it.) My son was

thrilled. He said he knew I would get good seats because the team playing was Honduras. My kids know I have this really soft spot for anything that has to do with Honduras!

Today was the big game. Ian's godfather, Jim Criste, did not make it. He was called to DC to be offered the position of Country Director of Peace Corps/Costa Rica. Some excuse! (I intend to publish in this newsletter the address of his house with the guestrooms as soon as he gets settled in that beautiful country!) Accompanied by my husband and older son, we four headed for Seattle early at Ian's insistence to see the players warm up. The weather was cool, sunny and glorious. Our seats were great. The fans were excited. My husband brought us all beer and soda. Thirty thousand voices suddenly silenced and we collectively turned and faced the warmth of the sun as the two national anthems were played. Then the crowd roared with excitement. The referee blew the whistle and the game began.

I picked up my roster and looked over the names on the USA side: Williams, Cunningham, Howard, Keller, and my kid's favorite, Jones. My kids named their dog after Cobie Jones. As my eyes moved to the right side of the roster, and down, the field in front of me began to dissolve into a foggy sea of memories: **Rosales, Pineda, Alvarez, Perez, and Canales.** It then floated to a small wooden chest in my room - where I treasure my most precious worldly possessions. In it is a soccer jersey - with a tear in the right sleeve. It was given to me when I was in the Peace Corps.

I had been working briefly in a small village outside of Tela. There wasn't a regular road back then, and I traveled there by horse or on my motorcycle. The young but obvious leader of the village was wearing the soccer jersey the first time I visited,

and every time afterward. It was a Guatemalan Soccer Jersey with a large Quetzal on the front of it. There was a tear in the right sleeve. I asked him about his shirt, so different from the attire of the rest of the men in the village. Juan had been a star player on the Honduran National team, and after playing Guatemala, one of the opposition players gave him his jersey as a sign of camaraderie and friendship. But Juan's soccer career ended abruptly when his father was killed in an accident on the United Fruit Company's banana plantation and Juan, the eldest son, came home to harvest bananas and support and help raise his many younger siblings. His beautiful young wife told me his jersey was his most prized possession.

In 1974, Hurricane Fifi did her best to level much of the North Coast of Honduras (another story). Approximately twenty thousand people were killed. I was transferred from my school in San Pedro Sula to direct a program for CARE in the Tela area. Although I have neither before nor since worked so hard in my life, I was given the often joyful task of administering a million dollars' worth of aid in the form of housing materials, agricultural supplies (including hundreds of new machetes!) seeds, etc. CARE, along with other organizations, did a lot to keep thousands alive and fed after the devastating hurricane that ended or changed forever the lives of thousands - including my own. Juan's little village, one of the hundred or so in the CARE/ Tela program, rebuilt their houses and planted crops. Months later, as the harvest began, my work there was done.

The day I left my site in Tela, I stopped by my office to give a few last hugs to my country counterparts. On top of my now empty desk, was Juan's clean and folded soccer jersey. I was told that he was waiting at the

door when it was unlocked at 6 o'clock that morning. Juan had explained that since he was on foot, he had to leave immediately to make the 10-mile walk back to his village to start work that day. The jersey, he had insisted, was to be delivered to only me as a symbol of gratitude and affection from his village. I boarded a flight the next morning for my return home to the USA.

I was still in my seat on the airplane, tears stinging my eyes, clutching my jersey and listening to the roar of the Pan Am jet engines when my son tapped me on the arm, "Mom, you are such a space case! You are not even paying attention to the game!" It was almost over now. The score was 4-0. Cobie Jones had not played. I guess second string was enough to beat the Honduras Team. This time anyway. The game ended. The fans jumped to their feet in applause. As is tradition, the players re-entered the field to greet each other. **Then one of the US players took off his jersey, and handed it to his Honduran opponent!**

Editor Note: January 30, 2022 was the Eliminarias Rumba a Copa Del Mundo Catar. Honduras lost to El Salvador (0 - 2) at SPS Estadio Olimpico.

MORE PC STORIES: Puerto Rico & Trujillo Don Eggleston Honduras I got drafted into the US Army after three months in Trujillo. We got a leave from Arecibo, Puerto Rico (training), so two male trainees and I hopped on a "guagua" and went to visit old San Juan. Our mission was to buy a pair of suspenders for Harry Bidgood (Gordito). If you can picture Harry from the back, you will understand why. We went in to a classy men's store and approached the counter--we were the only customers. Cute girl at the counter, dressed up in heels asked what we wanted. Since I spoke the best

Spanish, I said. "Queremos un par de.... 'suspenders'". She looked puzzled and her boss came up--another classy lady a bit older. The boss finally guessed that we wanted "un suspensor", and I quickly nodded. By this time all the clerks were watching and listening. The boss and clerk looked a bit embarrassed but the boss asked "Que tamaño?" This threw me, but I was quick on my feet and with my hands measured the distance between shoulders and waist and doubled it, stretching my arms out to about five feet. At this point everyone (but us gringos) burst into laughter. Turns out a "suspensor" is a jock strap.

Reminded me of a couple more things from my three months (before US Army basic training!) in Trujillo (littoral black Carib Indians, different than most of the other placements). I was the first volunteer there and I (stupidly) hit the ground running, working on "chapeando" to clear a field to build a school and also to plant an acre of watermelons and cantaloupe on local community land. Fortunately, I also followed the community development procedure of doing a site survey. The site survey was finished just before I got drafted. By that time the acre of melons had a devastating "plaga" of what I now know was cucumber beetles, and we only got about ten melons. (I had gone on a coconut boat for 3 hours to La Ceiba to get a sprayer and some poisonous pesticides, but it was too late.)

Also the ground was cleared and surveyors had worked on the site for the new school. In the process of writing the site survey, I was forced to the conclusion that politics was everything in Trujillo. There were two sets of everything, like schoolteachers and cops. When the Liberales were in power, everything the other party ("Nacionales") had

done was ignored. Of course, when I arrived and wandered (alone) into town from the dirt airport, I was taken to see the mayor, who introduced me to all his National Party friends. This meant that I was recognized in town as a "Nacional". Eventually, I met a very smart guy at the little tienda on the corner selling candy to kids who was a senator in the legislature when his party was in power. He explained the dichotomy to me, and took me to a site right out of town where I was astonished to discover the foundation and some walls to a half-built school that the government had started to build when his party had been in power ten years before. So, if I had just waited till I finished the site survey, I wouldn't have wasted all that time on trying to build a second school AND I probably would have thought to talk to someone about why melons didn't do well in Trujillo without poisons.

Another thing that is ironic is that I am now an evangelist for Permaculture--sustainable agriculture and living. I realize that what we were told to teach--using "Green Revolution", techniques really was a terrible step backwards. Addicting subsistence farmers to store-bought seeds and chemical pesticides and fertilizers poisoned the land and would have made my friends dependent on big US corporations who sold the hybrid seeds, fertilizer and pesticides. This really made us shills for big agribusiness. Huge mistake! (Check out "Sustainable Harvest International", a group doing agricultural support for indigenous folks in Central America. Their techniques are organic and sustainable.)

One more great experience was living with the Colon family outside of Utuado, Puerto Rico (I guess you'd call them "jibaros" or hillbillies) when we stayed with

locals. I walked about a mile up off the road on a little path to find Don Filomeno and his wife in a real Permaculture site. They had no electricity or running water. Don Filomeno (68 years old) walked daily down to the road--maybe 2 miles--to cut grass for his goats. No way could I keep up with him--even with 80 pounds of grass on his back. Every afternoon he and Doña Maria would sit on their porch overlooking the peripheral highway and the ocean and drink their homemade "pitriche" from sugar cane. When I left after a week, Don Filomeno took me out to his field and we planted a "pitriche" bottle. We were, of course, both drunk and he convinced me that there would be a big tree in full production when I returned. One more of many little stories: Dona Maria would cut her vegetables at her kitchen window and flick the leftovers out the window. I found this odd, so I looked out the window and there was a pig waiting and staring at the window. It was pretty much a closed, sustainable Permaculture system.

LETTERS FROM PEACE CORPS HONDURAS Scott Berg (Aldea Mateo, Francisco Morazan, 1976-79)

I would like to share with Amigos de Honduras the book "**Letters from Peace Corps, Honduras (10/76-4/79)**." This is a true to life non-fiction collection of letters that I wrote to my Montana girlfriend over 45 years ago. This is the second edition from the original 2020 version that I shared with a few close friends. I received valuable feedback with some corrections and requests to change names to protect the innocent (and also the guilty!). The feedback I received has been overwhelmingly positive, with some readers urging me to self-publish this paperback version for broader distribution. Please see the following

book review by Frank Almaguer, former PC Honduras Director and US Ambassador to Honduras.

I intend to sell 100 copies with the objective of helping to raise funds for projects that are supported by Amigos de Honduras and decided by the Grants Committee. I will charge \$40/copy, \$10 of which would represent a donation by you to Amigos, or any larger amount that you may wish to contribute to support the work of Amigos. I pledge to match each book purchase with my own donation of \$10 from each book sold. The remaining \$20 per copy would go to defray some of the costs of printing, postage and packaging. While the cost of using a private printer is relatively higher, it permits us to capture the proceeds and forward funds directly to Amigos de Honduras to support projects that help Hondurans in Honduras.

My story takes place in the 1970s when I was in my early 20s. Thus, the narrative is of a young, naïve and slightly off-kilter Gringo. Those were some pretty crazy times and we all had our share of whacky ideas and perspectives on life in a developing country. As Frank mentions in his review, “the book is a personal story that startles with its honesty...warts and all.” I hope that the book will jog some gray matter memories of your own Peace Corps experiences in Honduras and other service countries. I volunteer to handle the distribution of the book by mail and the forwarding of the proceeds to Amigos. Paul Dulin and Brant Miller have volunteered to check my bookkeeping for accuracy. Please either email me your contact information and request for copies, or send a check of at least \$40 to: Scott Berg, 95174 Cook Road, Fernandina Beach, Florida, 32034. Thank you and I hope you enjoy the book! Scott Berg,
rsbergassoc@aol.com

REFLECTIONS on Scott Berg's Letters from Peace Corps Honduras Frank Almaguer

When I read the first edition of Scott's book, in November 2020, my first reaction was that it needed to be read by those seeking an honest perspective on service as a Peace Corps Volunteer (PCV) in rural Latin America in the mid-70s. Once I began to read it, I could not put it down. This book is unique and needs to be more widely available for academics, researchers and in the PC oral history programs. It is one of the best written, most thoughtful self-published books that I have read.

The book covers a period of time in which I was serving as Peace Corps/Honduras Country Director and knew first-hand the setting for this book, as well as many of the individuals who play a role in the narrative. More significantly, Scott's description of events, both the mundane happenings in an impoverished community in rural Honduras, as well as those moments that give the reader a sense of the challenges confronted by PCVs in their assigned roles, are vividly conveyed, underscoring Scott's writing skills and thoughtful reflection. Peace Corps historians, as well as readers of this book, will be grateful that Scott chronicled his experiences in a contemporaneously written and meticulously kept correspondence to his Montana girlfriend and personal journal of his travels.

The book effectively captures in vibrant detail the day-to-day experiences—warts and all—of PCVs confronting the challenges inherent in their assignments and in settings where institutions are weak and personal relations with counterparts and neighbors, as well as with fellow PCVs, are central to the Peace Corps narrative. The book is a personal story that startles with its honesty

and reflects the Peace Corps Volunteer experience in ways that cannot be captured in film documentaries or in many of the books that have been written on the 60-year history of the Peace Corps. Despite Scott's doubts about the value of his service in Honduras, it is clear that his experience changed his life's trajectory and outlook. The biggest impact the Peace Corps has is on the PCVs themselves and in their role in helping to inform and, in a few instances, shape our American world view. I wish more of our fellow citizens were able to share comparable experiences. Frank Almaguer, Peace Corps Volunteer, Belize (1967-69), Peace Corps Country Director, Honduras (1976-79), American Ambassador to Honduras (1999-2002)

NEWS OF HONDURAS Compiled by Loren Hintz

Xiomara Castro was sworn in as Honduran President Jan. 27, 2022. VP Kamala Harris attended. The November election final results with 68.5% voting: **Xiomara Castro (LIBRE)** received 1,716,601 votes or 51.12%. National Party had 36.93% and Liberal Party 10.0%. Twelve other political parties were on the ballot and they won 3274 to 8857 votes (0.10% to 0.26%). LIBRE obtained 50 seats failing to win a majority in the 128 seat Honduran Congress. National won 44, Liberal 22, Partido Salvador 12 and Anti-corruption Party (PAC) and Christian Democrats won 1 each.

LIBRE, Partido Salvador, Christian Democrats (DC) and PINU had formed coalition called the Union Nacional Opositora de Honduras for the presidential race but ran their own candidates for Deputados. PINU lost its 4 seats, DC had no net gain and Partido Salvador won 12 for the first time. In this election both traditional parties

National (-17) and Liberal (-5) lost seats in the Honduran Congress. I had expected LIBRE/UNOH to form a coalition with some in the Liberal Party to gain control of the Honduran Congress electing someone from Salvador Party to head of Congress as promised during the campaign. Instead as I edit this newsletter, LIBRE has split with 18 members (now expelled from LIBRE for “treason” joining the old National, Liberal and PAC parties to elect at “Club Campestre Bosques de Zambrano” Jorge Calix as **President of Honduran Congress** with the support of 79 Deputados. While at the Legislative Building in Tegucigalpa (with the electricity cut off) the remaining coalition of LIBRE, Salvador and DC as well as some Deputados of the Liberal Party elected Luis Redondo as **President of Honduran Congress** with the support of 49 Deputados. Hondurans are hoping some compromise will occur among Castro, Calix and Redondo. <https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/el-contundente-mensaje-de-xiomara-castro-contradiputados-raidores-LD5072814>.

Comayagua Noticias HN 6.26.21 New economic zones are being created in Honduras called ZEDES. A Garifuna family in Triunfo de la Cruz recently lost their property to this law. Over a year ago, four afro-indigenous Garifuna men were forcibly disappeared from this community. **The Employment and Economic Development Zones (ZEDES in Spanish)**, also known as “private cities”, “charter cities” or “model cities”, have been rejected overwhelmingly in Honduras almost a decade since the first protests against them in 2011 when they were introduced as Special Development Zones. The Zedes allow the creation of totally autonomous city-states within Honduran territory, governed by foreign investors. Under this model, any group or individual can

take possession, through questionable means, of lands or regions in order to build the ZEDES, transfer it to third parties, and expand it without any time or geographic limits. ZEDES owners would even be able to expropriate the property of legitimate Honduran owners. **AGJ 8.30.21.**



Honduras.Tips. Honduran artist and veterinary student Marco Morales was featured in the Mexican Franciscan Order Calendar.

HONDURAN FLAG CHANGES COLORS **Criterio.hn 1.4.22 Tegucigalpa.** With the arrival of the new government led by elected president Xiomara Castro, turquoise blue will begin to be used as the legitimate color of the Honduran National Flag. The first to confirm that Honduras will return to the use of turquoise blue in the national flag was the Transition Commission of the new government chaired by the deputy of the opposition Freedom and Refoundation (LIBRE) Party, Jari Dixon. The president-elect herself confirmed that the Honduran National Flag will be hoisted in the legitimate colors at the presidential inauguration ceremony, a flag that she has already used in various political campaign activities.

The National Flag of Honduras was created under Legislative Decree number 7 of February 16, 1966 during the government of José María Medina, in which it was contemplated that the flag was made up of two blue stripes and one white in the middle, placed horizontally; in addition, a group of five blue stars with five salient angles in the center of the white stripe. However, at the beginning of the 20th century, the color navy blue was used for commercial uses and military protocols, and from 1929, navy blue was used for all institutional flags. From 1933 to 1949, during the dictatorship of Tiburcio Carías Andino, related to the National Party, the use of the color navy blue in the National Flag similar to the color of the National Party flag was instrumentalized. By 1949, under the reform of Legislative Decree 7, through Decree 29 of that same year, turquoise blue was established as the official color of the flag, however, the control and power of the dictatorship of the National Party made it impossible to comply with the regulations.

The president of Honduras, who took office on January 27, used the turquoise blue Honduran flag at her closing ceremony and during her political campaign and promised that the flag with the legitimate colors will fly at the Presidential House. Recently, the Honduran Armed Forces, through a notification to the commanders and heads of the military institution, instructed that, as of January 17, the turquoise blue flag must be worn on the uniform, in the same way, the changes in the national flags of the bases and units in compliance with Legislative Decree 7.

Editor Note: If you are from North Carolina we are talking about the difference between Carolina Blue and Duke Blue!

Amigos de Honduras Membership Info

Use this form to renew membership or notify us of a change in address. Or, copy and give to a friend who you think might like to keep in touch with Honduras and RPCVs. Other than your name, enter only the info that has changed.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Phone: _____ e-mail address _____

Peace Corps Info:

Years of service: from _____ to _____ Group # _____ Site(s) _____

Job _____

Post-Peace Corps Experiences (occupation, marriage, children, travels, interests) _____

Amigos de Honduras : \$15

NPCA Supporter (Basic FREE): \$50

Amigos, NPCA & another group: \$30
name of other group _____

5 year membership Amigos: \$50 _____

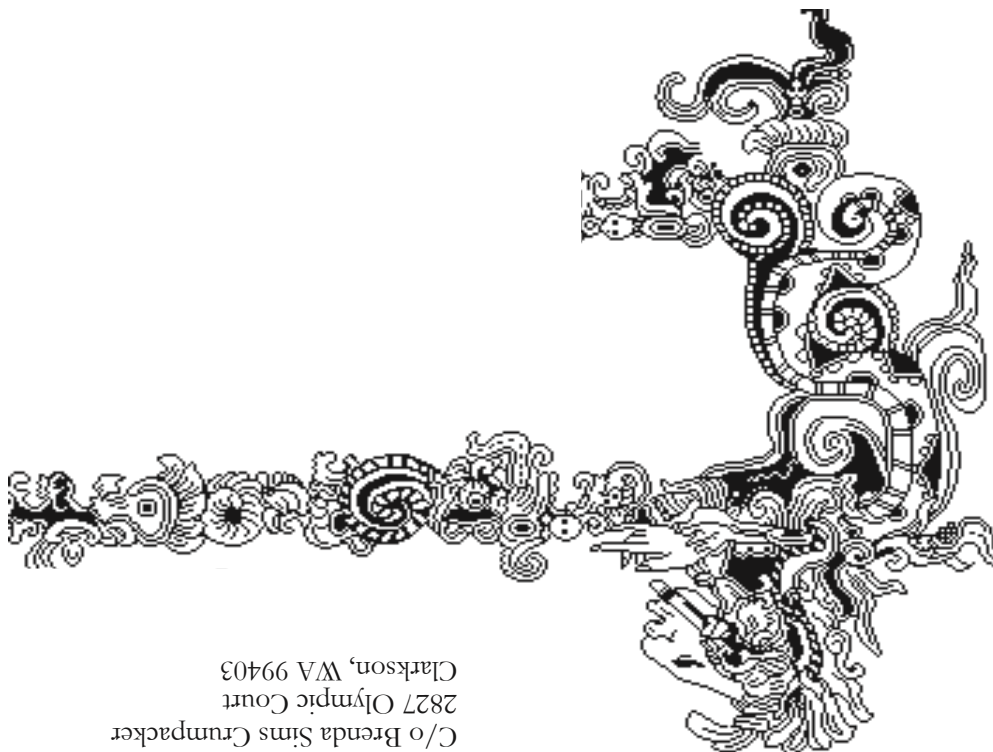
Contribution to projects Amigos will fund in Honduras: \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

I would prefer to receive my newsletter in .pdf format.

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